

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: LIBERTY UTILITIES (MIDSTATES NATURAL GAS) CORP., d/b/a LIBERTY UTILITIES	DOCKET NO. RPU-2016-0003 (TF-2016-0303, TF-2016-0304, TF-2016-0305, TF-2016-0306)
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**ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME AND MODIFYING
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE TO ALLOW SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY**

(Issued November 1, 2016)

On July 25, 2016, Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty), filed with the Utilities Board (Board) an application to increase its annual revenues by approximately \$1 million, or approximately 61.3 percent, pursuant to Iowa Code § 476.6 and chapter 26 of the Board's administrative rules. Liberty also filed proposed tariff revisions, identified as TF-2016-0304, TF-2016-0305, and TF-2016-0306, which would implement the rate increase in three phases, with the full increase in effect as specified in TF-2016-0306.

Liberty also filed a tariff, identified as TF-2016-0303, which increases the company's annual revenues on a temporary basis in the amount of \$528,569.50. Pursuant to Iowa Code § 476.6(9)(b), Liberty implemented the temporary rates on August 4, 2016, ten days after the July 25, 2016, filing.

On August 16, 2016, the Board issued an order approving Liberty's corporate undertaking, docketing the proposed tariffs, requiring additional information, and setting a procedural schedule. On October 21, 2016, the Board issued an order

requiring Liberty to provide further information relating to the proposed increase.

Liberty's response to the Board's questions specified in the October 21, 2016, order was due October 31, 2016.

On October 31, 2016, Liberty filed a motion for extension of time. Liberty asks that it be allowed to file its responses to the October 21, 2016, order on or before November 11, 2016. Liberty explains that the extension is necessary because an unexpected personal obligation will require its counsel to be out of the office and because the company's cost of service expert witness needs additional time to prepare a revised study in response to the Board's questions. Liberty asserts that the requested extension will not prejudice any party to this proceeding and will not require rescheduling the hearing.

The Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), a division of the Iowa Department of Justice, filed a response to Liberty's motion on October 31, 2016. OCA does not object to the extension but asks that if the Board grants the extension, the Board give OCA additional time to address in OCA's direct testimony the information Liberty will file in response to the Board's questions. OCA points out that if Liberty had filed the required information on October 31, 2016, OCA would have had one week to review and address that information in its direct testimony, which is due November 7, 2016. OCA asks that the Board either extend the deadline for OCA's direct testimony or to allow OCA to file supplemental direct testimony.

The Board has reviewed Liberty's motion and finds that the request for an extension is reasonable. Liberty requests that the due date for its responses to the

Board's October 21, 2016, order be extended to November 11, 2016. Because November 11, 2016 is a state holiday, the Board will require that Liberty file its response on or before November 10, 2016. The Board also concludes that OCA and Intervenor should have time to review the information forthcoming from Liberty and address the information in direct testimony. The Board will modify the procedural schedule established in this proceeding to allow OCA and Intervenor an opportunity to file supplemental direct testimony addressing Liberty's additional information on or before November 18, 2016.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The motion for extension of time filed by Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities, on October 31, 2016, is granted as described in the body of this order.
2. Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities, shall provide the information identified in Board's October 21, 2016, order on or before November 10, 2016.
3. The procedural schedule originally established for Docket No. RPU-2016-0003 on August 16, 2016, and as modified on September 23, 2016, is modified to allow the Office of Consumer Advocate, a division of the Iowa Department of

Justice, and any intervenors to file on or before November 18, 2016, supplemental direct testimony addressing the issues raised by the information to be filed by Liberty Utilities on or before November 10, 2016.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Geri D. Huser

/s/ Elizabeth S. Jacobs

ATTEST:

/s/ Trisha M. Quijano _____
Executive Secretary, Designee

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 1st day of November 2016.